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August 2002

MONTANA ECONOMY AT A GLANCE

UNEMPLOYMENT BY COUNTY

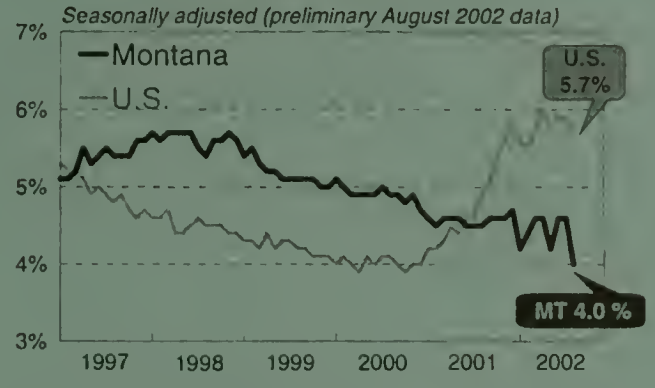
Not seasonally adjusted

	Aug. 2001	Aug. 2002*
UNITED STATES	4.9%	5.7%
MONTANA	3.7%	3.1%
Cascade **	3.9%	3.2%
Missoula **	2.9%	2.6%
Yellowstone **	3.0%	2.6%
Beaverhead	2.2%	2.8%
Big Horn	16.9%	11.8%
Blaine	4.0%	4.0%
Broadwater	3.2%	2.6%
Carbon	3.3%	2.4%
Carter	2.1%	1.9%
Chouteau	2.8%	1.7%
Custer	2.6%	2.1%
Daniels	1.5%	1.5%
Dawson	2.7%	1.9%
Deer Lodge	5.7%	4.6%
Fallon	2.0%	2.2%
Fergus	4.0%	2.8%
Flathead	4.1%	3.4%
Gallatin	1.8%	1.6%
Garfield	1.5%	1.9%
Glacier	9.5%	7.4%
Golden Valley	3.7%	3.3%
Granite	5.2%	3.8%
Hill	4.4%	3.3%
Jefferson	3.7%	3.0%
Judith Basin	1.8%	3.0%
Lake	5.7%	5.2%
Lewis & Clark	4.1%	3.4%
Liberty	3.0%	2.1%
Lincoln	8.3%	7.9%
McCone	1.3%	0.5%
Madison	1.7%	1.7%
Meagher	3.3%	2.8%
Mineral	5.1%	5.6%
Musselshell	5.9%	6.4%
Park	2.9%	2.2%
Petroleum	0.6%	0.6%
Phillips	2.8%	3.0%
Pondera	3.9%	3.5%
Powder River	1.5%	0.8%
Powell	3.5%	3.1%
Prairie	3.7%	3.1%
Ravalli	3.4%	3.2%
Richland	4.3%	4.1%
Roosevelt	6.1%	7.2%
Rosebud	6.8%	5.7%
Sanders	5.6%	4.7%
Sheridan	2.5%	2.0%
Silver Bow	4.7%	3.9%
Stillwater	2.5%	2.3%
Sweet Grass	1.3%	1.9%
Teton	2.7%	2.5%
Toole	2.1%	2.2%
Treasure	1.5%	1.9%
Valley	3.0%	2.5%
Wheatland	1.5%	2.9%
Wibaux	2.0%	4.0%

**August 2002 rate preliminary*
*** Cascade=Great Falls MSA*
Missoula= Missoula MSA
Yellowstone=Billings MSA

August 2002 HIGHLIGHTS

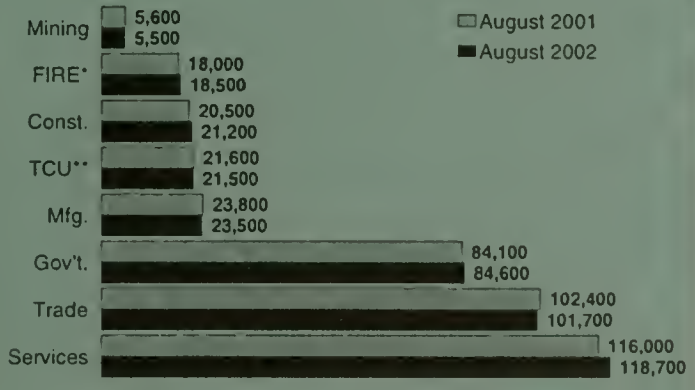
Unemployment



Montana's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in August was 4.0 percent—the lowest of any month on record since 1978, and 1.7 percentage points below the national rate of 5.7 percent.

Nonag Payroll Employment

Montana Jobs (Seasonally Adjusted)



*Finance/Insurance/Real Estate **Transportation/Communications/Utilities

Seasonally adjusted, Montana's nonagricultural payroll employment was up about 3,200 jobs (eight-tenths of a percentage point) over the year in August. Health services and construction showed the largest over-the-year job gains.

Earnings

Average weeky earnings for Montana's private sector production workers were up 1.5 percent over the year in August, lagging slightly behind the 1.8 percent over-the-year increase in U.S. inflation.

2000 CENSUS

VEHICLES AVAILABLE

Information from the 2000 Census in the table below compares vehicles available per household for Montana and the United States.

Vehicles available	*MT*	*US*
None	6.1%	10.3%
1	29.9%	34.2%
2	38.9%	38.4%
3 or more	25.2%	17.1%

For more Census information, visit the Montana Census and Economic Information Center website at http://ceic.commerce.state.mt.us.

ONLINE AT

Research & Analysis Bureau
Workforce Services Division
Montana Dept. of Labor & Industry
840 Helena Ave.
PO Box 1728
Helena MT 59624
406-444-2430
FAX 406-444-2638
TDD 406-444-0532

http://rad.dli.state.mt.us/

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SKILLS & QUALITIES EMPLOYERS LOOK FOR IN WORKERS

- A recent Research and Analysis Bureau survey found employers value highly positive work habits and attitudes, and said they are the most difficult skills and qualities to find when hiring new employees.
- Surveyed employers said it's harder to find workers with positive work habits and the ability to work with minimal supervision than those with basic writing, technology and math skills.
- Interested in learning more? Access the bureau's website at http://rad.dli.state.mt.us/, select "publications" and then click on "1999 skills survey."

Competencies and attributes Montana employers say they have trouble finding when hiring new employees

Competency/Attribute	Percentage
Positive work habits	17.6%
Ability to work with minimal supervision	9.7%
Ability to assume responsibilities	7.4%
Ability to follow directions	6.7%
Interpersonal skills	6.3%
Strong work ethic	5.6%
Reasoning and problem solving skills	5.1%
Job experience	4.4%
Pleasant attitudes	4.3%
Ability to work well as a team member	4.3%
Resource and time management skills	3.8%
Worker integrity/honesty	3.4%
Ability to learn new tasks	3.3%
Ability to handle customer questions & complaints	3.3%
Listening skills	2.6%
Basic writing skills	2.3%
Basic science skills	2.0%
Worker uses common sense	2.0%
Basic tool or technology skills	1.6%
Basic math skills	1.2%
Leadership skills	1.2%
Speaking skills	0.6%
Flexibility	0.5%
Basic reading skills	0.4%
Worker availability	0.3%
Works safely	0.1%
Other competency	0.0%
Total	*100.0%*

Return in 5 days to:
Research & Analysis Bureau
Workforce Services Division
Montana Department of Labor & Industry
P.O. Box 1728
Helena MT 59624-1728

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